REMARKS

Applicants' representative respectfully requests consideration of the amendment proposed herein. The amendment to claim 20 is supported by the instant specification at, for example, page 8, lines 3-8, page 11, line 30, through page 12, line 2, page 14, lines 27-31, page 19, lines 22-28, page 21, lines 15-22, page 22, lines 7-20, page 35, line 36, through page 36, line 3, and Examples 5 and 6. New claims 28-31 are support by the instant specification at, for example, page 3, lines 30-33, page 5, lines 8-15, page 5, line 31, through page 6, line 4, page 9, lines 16-22, page 11, line 23, through page 12, line 10, page 12, lines 16-19, page 14, lines 2-7, page 18, lines 16-36, page 20, lines 26-33, page 21, lines 6-15, page 21, line 23, through page 22, line 20 *et seq*, page 26, line 33, through page 27, line 5, page 27, lines 23 *et seq*, and page 28, line 15, through page 35, line 9, and by Examples 1, 4, 5, and 6.

Claim 20 has been amended to recite that the antiviral protein or antiviral peptide has an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or an antiviral fragment thereof comprising at least nine contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 2. This amendment has not been proposed previously. The antiviral peptide fragment must comprise at least nine contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 2, and are fully enabled by the specification at, for example, page 14, line 32, through page 15, line 4, and Examples 5 and 6, which describes methods to identify antiviral agents appropriate for use in the inventive method. Screening peptides for antiviral activity using methods disclosed in the instant specification is merely routine experimentation, which does not constitute undue experimentation.

In addition, claim 20 has been amended to recite a method of inhibiting binding of an enveloped virus to a cell in a host. The ability of the antiviral agents of the invention to inhibit binding of an enveloped virus to a cell has been demonstrated in Examples 5 and 6 of the instant specification and by the data submitted by way of Rule 132 Declarations.

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